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PASS TO DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

EUR/ERA, EEB/TPP/ABT/BBT, USTR, USDA/FAS
MADRID FOR STEVE HAMMOND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/11/2018

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [PO](#) [TBIO](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON EU REGULATORY COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 12
VOTE ON BIOTECH CORN, COTTON, AND SOYBEANS

REF: STATE 13142

Classified By: Pol/Econ Off Jenifer Neidhart for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

(C) Pol/Econ officer delivered reftel talking points to Rui Noronho, Deputy Director of policy and planning of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Isabel Sarmento, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture. They reiterated Portugal's position of support for EFSA-approved biotech varieties without offering specific comment on the Regulatory Committee's vote.

A close Embassy contact and Portuguese biotech expert, Jos Luis Pinheiro (protect), confirms that Portugal will vote favorably for the corn, soybean and cotton events, but added that the Committee is not expected to attain a qualified majority.
Stephenson